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MOLES

Moles occasionally do much damage to gardens and lawns. The damage is due entirely to their disturbance of the soil and so injuring the roots of plants. They do not eat roots, bulbs or other vegetable matter found in the soil, but live entirely on animal matter. Rest assured that there are many insects- adults and larvae in the soil when moles are working therein.

Moles are most effectively controlled by the use of traps. They are especially constructed affairs which may be purchased at hardware and seed stores. One of the loop or choke type is usually most effective. The best location to place these traps is found by opening several runways and noting which tunnel is repaired first. The trap should then be set in a newly constructed burrow. To place the trap the soil should be removed well down to the roof of the burrow making the area large enough for the entire trap, then press and set the loop well below the bed of the runway. Test the trap to see that it will spring lightly. After one mole has been caught, it is best to remove the trap to a new location. The trap should be visited both morning and evening since the moles are active in both the day and night.

Poison vegetable baits are of little or no use against moles as they seldom, if ever, eat vegetable matter. Even such choice baits as sliced potatoes or sliced apples will not tempt them. They can sometimes be caught by using a little poisoned fresh meat, placing it in their runs, out of reach of cats and dogs or poultry.